



JOE ARESIMOWICZ  
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Good Afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Representative Joe Aresimowicz from the Thirtieth District serving Berlin and Southington. I am here today to testify in full **SUPPORT** of HB 6808- AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING STATUTES.

During the 2013 session, I met with a constituent who was seeing far too often unlicensed sub-contractors doing jobs that required a properly licensed professional. From this meeting, I formed a task force during the interim to consider how to prevent general contractors from hiring unlicensed professionals in the future. In the 2014 legislative session, a bill was proposed based on the recommendations made by the task force. The final version of the bill asked the Department of Consumer Protection to report the following data: the total number of complaints received, the nature of each complaint, and the Department's resolution of the complaint, including whether it was dismissed (and for what reason), investigated, settled, or brought to a formal hearing. We had hoped to be able to see how we can improve our current enforcement efforts and bolster the work of the Department. Unfortunately, the results showed little to no board involvement and a lack of enforcement with most cases being dismissed or simply thrown out.

It happens far too often in this state and across the nation that general contractors hire sub-contractors based on their low bid with little to no regard for proper licensing and apprenticeship programs. The state currently requires occupational trade licenses for the following trades: Auto Glass and Flat Glass, Electrical Work, Elevator Installation/Repair/Maintenance, Fire Protection/Sprinklers, Heating/Piping/Cooling and Plumbing and Pipe Work. Every one of these trades requires an immense amount of training due to potentially hazardous and deadly outcomes that could result from improper installation and maintenance. Because of this these individuals go through rigorous testing, apprenticeship programs, and pay annual fees to be classified as a licensed occupational trade in CT. It is unfair that these qualified and properly licensed workers are losing jobs to non-licensed, inexperienced workers who can offer lower prices.

This bill states that if someone willingly or negligently hires a contractor to do a job that according to state statute requires a licensed occupational trade professional, they will be issued a "Stop Work Order." If issued such order, the general contractor will have to appear before the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the appropriate examining board. If found guilty of such violation, they will receive a civil penalty for each violation. This bill will strengthen the enforcement of licensed occupational trades, which in turn will deter general contractors from hiring unlicensed sub-contractors and encourage the hiring of Connecticut licensed trade professionals.

This is an industry wide, both union and non-union, issue that boards and trade associations agree must be addressed. The individuals who oppose this bill are people doing work outside the scope of their legal authority and are putting the citizens of Connecticut at risk. I am in full support of this important piece of legislation and urge your support.

